



PICTURE GALLERY



STEVEN HOOGENDIJK (1698-1788) ROTTERDAM

Steven Hoogendijk was a watch and instrument maker and there are also clocks signed by him; most of the clocks are of English import, but of good quality. Hoogendijk is more famous for his watches and there are several instruments known that were made by him. He was the son of Adriaan Hoogendijk and Elisabeth Tracy (daughter of Steven Tracy or Thrasi, sister of Stephen Tracy) and apprenticed to Pieter Uyterweer the elder.

From 1723 he was keeper of the City clock and bells. He was also 'stadsbouwmeester' (city master of building) for Rotterdam.

ANTIQUARIAN HOROLOGY

Apart from that he was (and is) well known as a physician. Hoogendijk was well-off and in 1769 he founded the Bataafsch Genootschap voor Proefondervindelijke Wijsbegeerte (Batavian Society for Experimental Philosophy – a learned society in Rotterdam). This 'Bataafs Genootschap' imported the Newcomen engine from England which was then put into use in 1776, resulting in the building of the first steam engine (Boulton and Watt) in 1787 for pumping out the Blijdorpse polder (part of the city of Rotterdam). Although this machine was only used for a very short period





(until 1791) it resulted in the use of the steam engine to drain several other polders, including the Haarlermeer, which today contains Schiphol Airport. The Batavian Society remains active and each year awards Steven Hoogendijk prizes.

This watch, No.21, has a mock pendulum which is typical for Rotterdam. Along the bottom edge of the mock pendulum aperture are engraved the words "C'EST POUR LEUR CONSTANCE". The movement is enclosed by a fine, decoratively engraved and cut out, silver band with small glass panels behind it to prevent the movement getting dusty.

It was probably made *c.*1730. The dial indicates the date, moon and high tide. High tide was important for the merchants because it would



tell them whether the fishermen were able to go out fishing once or twice in a day and this would influence the price of the fish. Total height 28 mm, dia. 48 mm (lacking outer case).

